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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1950

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To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Welshpool during the year ended 31st December, 1950.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in the Welsh Board of Health circular No. 112/50 (Wales).

1. VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough: 20,427 Acres.

POPULATION.—6,048, an increase of 183 on the figure given for 1949.

BIRTHS:—

Live Births

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	55	48	103
Illegitimate	5	1	6
Total	60	49	109

Still Births:

Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Total	2	0	2

BIRTH RATES:

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population: 18.0 (compared with 15.8 for England and Wales).

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population): 0.33 (compared with 0.37 for England and Wales).

DEATHS:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
All Causes	35	37	72

Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated civilian population): 11.9 (compared with 11.6 for England and Wales).

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Total	2	3	5

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:

Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Total	2	3	5

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births): 45.9 (compared with 29.8 for England and Wales).

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS:

	1948.	1949.	1950.
Population	5817	5865	6048
Live Birth Rate ...	21.8	22.4	18.0
Still Birth Rate ...	0.52	0.34	0.33
Death Rate	11.7	11.3	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate ...	15.7	30.3	45.9

2. CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)	0	1	1
Cancer of the Stomach ...	3	1	4
Cancer of the Lung ...	1	0	1
Cancer of other sites ...	4	2	6
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	7	12
Coronary Disease and Angina	2	4	6
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease	2	1	3
Other Heart Diseases ...	4	6	10
Other Diseases of the Circulation	2	4	6
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	0	1
Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	1	0	1
Congenital Malformations ...	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	5	3	8
Accident	0	1	1
Suicide	0	1	1
Total	35	37	72

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the Year the following Infectious Diseases were notified:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3
Measles	3	7	10
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	2
Poliomyelitis (Non - Paralytic)	2	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3	4	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	6

By arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health, cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) are, when necessary, admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Monkmoor, near Shrewsbury.

Tuberculosis. Cases of suspected Pulmonary and Non - Pulmonary Tuberculosis are referred by the General Practitioners to the Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas, and the Assistant Chest Physician, Dr. H. Pick. Clinics are held at the Welshpool Memorial Hospital on the first and third Mondays in each month at 10.0 a.m. The Physician also visits patients at their homes (by arrangement with their medical attendants) and maintains supervision of all Tubercular patients during the course of their illness.

Patients from this area are treated at the Chest Hospital, Machynlleth, at the North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh, and at the South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth, Breconshire.

The Chest Physician is also available for consultation in all cases of Chest Disease (other than Tuberculosis).

I wish to thank him and his assistant for the excellent work they continue to do in this area, and for their help and co-operation at all times.

4. LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART 3 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Maternity Services. Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics are held each week at the Welshpool Memorial Hospital under the supervision of the patients' own Doctor, who is in each case a member of the General Practitioner Staff of the Hospital.

Owing to the cuts in expenditure in the Health Service, the much hoped for new Maternity Ward has, unfortunately, not materialised. I would stress again the very urgent need for more accommodation for Maternity cases in the Hospital.

The Domiciliary Midwifery Service is efficiently carried on by the District Nurses under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

A Child Welfare Clinic and Clinic for the care of the nursing mother and her child is held each month under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer.

Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diptheria is carried out at this clinic.

Specialist Services. The following Clinics are held each month at the Hospital by the respective Specialists:

1. Medical: Dr. Phillip Evans, M.D., M.R.C.P.
   1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2.0 p.m.

2. Surgical: Mr. J. E. Spalding, M.S., F.R.C.S.
   4th Friday in each month at 10.30 a.m.

3. Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery: Mr. R. Barraclough, F.R.C.S.
   2nd and 4th Monday, at 2.0 p.m.

4. Pathology: Dr. J. Quinlan, M.D.
   2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 11.0 a.m.

5. Chest Diseases: Dr. J. O. Thomas.
   1st and 3rd Mondays ,at 10.a.m.

All Medical Practitioners practising in the area can send any patient to these clinics for Specialist Opinion. I thank the Specialists for their help and co-operation at all times. The Borough now has an excellent Medical Service.

Mental Health Service. A Psychiatric Clinic is held each Monday afternoon at the County Infirmary, Newtown, where patients are seen by appointment by the visiting Psychiatrist, Dr. B. J. Hand.

Venereal Diseases. These are not notifiable in this area, but any case brought to my notice is referred to the V.D. Clinic at Shrewsbury for treatment.

5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

No action was taken by the Council in any case under this section during the year.

6. Ambulance Service. This continues to be carried on very efficiently by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who give their services voluntarily.

7. WATER

Town Supply.

(a) Rainfall figures for the year:—

	Inches		Inches
January ...	1.03	July ...	3.50
February ...	5.28	August ...	5.68
March ...	1.35	September .	5.14
April ...	3.42	October ...	2.85
May ...	1.14	November ...	3.89
June ...	1.50	December ...	3.02
		Total for year	37.80

This compares with 27.23 in 1949 and 34.41 in 1948.

(b) Minimum supply to reservoirs was 84,758 gallons recorded on 14th August, 1950. Minimum waste line was 1,500 gallons per hour. Average consumption was 105,000 gallons per day.

(c) 57 Samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis. Two of these were for private supplies; the remaining concerned Guilsfield 18, Trewern 16, Town Supply 17, Trinity Well 4. One chemical analysis of town water was taken and found to be satisfactory.

(d) During the year the laying of services to the houses being erected at Bronwylfa Road was completed. Two new private houses were also connected, together with two other houses.

(e) The extension of the town mains to the Pool Quay

Housing Site has been completed and 8 houses have been connected.

(f) Road work at the Gallows Tree Bank Bridge necessitated the relaying of a section of a 2 inch main.

The connections to the town supply are as follows:—

1,434 houses, 183 shops, etc., 3 farms and 2 small holdings.

GUILSFIELD AND GROES.

Again there was difficulty in maintaining the water supply for these two villages and the supply of spring water to the storage tank was supplemented by the addition of stream water. This was possible through the co-operation of Sir Gerald Trevor.

By the 13th July the quantity of water held in storage had been reduced from 150,000 gallons to 88,750 gallons and the yield of the springs had fallen to 2,009 gallons per 24 hours.

By the 27th July water in storage had been increased to 127,814 gallons, and the use of stream water was stopped.

On the 29th August, the quantity held in storage had been reduced to 76,250 gallons and the supply to the service reservoir was 2,700 gallons per day.

On the 1st September the supply to the storage tank had increased to 6,646 gallons per day, this figure gradually increased and the storage tank was full and overflowing on the 22nd September.

The minimum yield of the springs during the year was

1,728 gallons per day, this figure being recorded on the 17th August.

A consumption test carried out between 1st and 2nd September showed that the consumption of the two villages was 3,955 gallons per day. The distribution system was tested for waste water on the 12th June — no leakages were detected.

During the year the water main was extended to the borough boundary near Trawscoed Lodge and services were provided for supplying three houses and one public water column.

Trewern Water Supply.

The Gelli Water Supply Scheme involving the laying of nearly 4 miles of 4-inch main has been completed and all 26 new Council Houses are now connected.

In addition to the 26 Council Houses, services were laid to supply 13 properties during the year, this making a total of 18 private properties now being supplied. A public standpipe was provided to serve residents in the Cefn district. Three cattle drinking tanks were installed in the fields below the spring head works.

There was no shortage of water during the year — the minimum overflow from the spring head works or compensation water was 14,207 gallons per 24 hours; this figure was recorded on the 17th August.

No consumption tests were carried out during the year.

Castle Caereionion Water Supply.

A tender has been accepted for the laying of a water

supply to the proposed new housing site and work will commence very shortly.

8. FOOD.

299 Certificates in respect of food surrendered as unfit for consumption were issued in 1950, as against 331 certificates in 1949.

Summary of food condemned is as follows:—

1,880 tins of food.	24 lbs. Sausage.
5 cases & 34lb. Cheese.	8½ lbs. Bacon.
63½ lbs. Butter.	9 lbs. Rice.
80 lbs. Meat.	8 Blocks Slag Salt.

Bye-laws dealing with the 'Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food' were adopted by the Council and came into operation on 10th July, 1950.

9. DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

The construction of the new Sewage Disposal Works at Guilsfield and Pool Quay were completed during the year. 11 new Council houses and 4 new private houses were connected to the Town Sewers.

3 Private houses at Guilsfield and 10 Council houses at Trewern were connected to the respective sewers.

10. SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Drains to the following were examined and passed:—

5 new private houses and 11 Council houses in Welshpool.

3 new private houses in Guilsfield.

5 new Council houses and 10 Council houses in Trewern.

11. DISINFESTATION.

Following outbreaks of infectious disease 6 houses were disinfected.

The Land Army Hostel at Coedydinas was vacated during the year and all bedding was steam-sterilised before being removed into Government Stores.

12. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

4 houses suspected of being in a verminous condition were disinfected.

13. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The arrangements for dealing with Rodent destruction were continued and the results were as follows:—

4 warehouses in the town were inspected and action taken with good results. The refuse tip was treated on three occasions, the average "kill" being 80 per treatment. The town sewers have been treated once, there being 15 "Poison Takes."

One school canteen was treated in Welshpool which resulted in the premises being cleared.

The total number of baits laid in the borough was 1,619. Poison baits taken were 816.

17. REGISTRATION OF ICE CREAM RETAILERS.

There was one new registration during the year bringing the total for the borough up to eleven.

15. HOUSE REFUSE.

(a) Weekly refuse collections take place from all houses in the town, all villages in the borough, and all houses en route. Disposal is by controlled tipping on waste land conveniently situate about half a mile from the town centre.

(b) Collections have been carried out for the Forden R.D.C. from Berriew—Garthmyl—Forden district and Castle Caereinion district.

16. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action necessary.

17. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change.

18. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provisions of the Shops Act were complied with and no court action was found necessary.

19. SCHOOLS.

All schools are periodically inspected.

20. HOUSING.

(a) 29 new Council houses were completed during the year, 11 at Bronwylfa Road, 10 at Trewern and 8 at Pool Quay. There were also 13 erected for private owners, making a total of 42 for the borough.

(b) Preparations are in hand for the erection of 12 houses at Castle Caereinion.

(c) The development of Borfa Green lands is in hand and work will shortly commence on the erection of 38 houses.

21. OVERCROWDING.

One case of overcrowding was notified. This was examined and reported on.

22. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The total number of factories in the borough is 42. 18 inspections were made and Certificates in respect of "Means of Escape in Case of Fire" were issued for 5 factories. No written notices were served for defects under the Act.

The Section of the Report dealing with the Rainfall, Water Supply, etc., was kindly supplied by the Borough Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. A. Lodge, and I take this opportunity of thanking him and the Town Clerk, Mr. J. Ben Davies, for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. R. B. MATHIAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

County Times,"
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Welshpool.